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SUBJECT : Palestinians Look Hopefully to DeGaulle.

REF :

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During the past few weeks the Consulate has noticed the growth of a belief among residents of the West Bank that French President General DeGaulle will next turn his attention to the Middle East. As a practical politician as the Arabs conceive the term, DeGaulle is expected to make a major effort to increase friendship with the Arab countries, of course at the expense of Israel. Some even expect DeGaulle to support the Arab states against Israel and to provide the armament that the Arabs need which they have been unable heretofore to acquire in sufficient quantities from the West.

There has been no event, statement or action that should logically have inspired this belief and is probably the result of Arab extrapolation of DeGaulle's actions to date. Looked at from the Arab point of view the pragmatic French President would rather be close to forty million Arabs than two million Israelis, particularly since the Algerian problem no longer is an irritant in Franco-Arab relations.

William L. Hamilton
Consul General

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY S. Duncan Peters DATE 2/1/84

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